

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

320 W. 4th Street, Suite 500
Los Angeles, CA 90013



October 19, 2017

File Number: XREQ 2017100001
Monterey Avenue
Capitola, Santa Cruz County

Steve Jesberg
Public Works Director
City of Capitola
420 Capitola Avenue
Capitola, CA 95010

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Monterey Avenue At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 017B-15.50 and DOT No. 768255V in the City of Capitola, County of Santa Cruz.

Dear Mr. Jesberg:

This refers to your letter received by us via email on September 14, 2017, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Monterey Avenue at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the Santa Cruz and Monterey Bay Railway (SCX) tracks in the City of Capitola (City), County of Santa Cruz. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 017B-15.50 and DOT No. 768255V.

The configuration consists of a single-track crossing over a three lane roadway with two sidewalks and two Commission Standard 9-A (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm and additional flashing light signals over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) warning devices. No freight service exists at the crossing. If it ever starts again, the train speed will be 15 miles per hour. The crossing average daily traffic is 3656 vehicles.

The proposed alterations, as indicated in the City request letter and/or shown on the plans, shall consist of:

- Installing a continental crosswalk with green colored bike lanes with pavement markings;
- Installing a pedestrian and bicycle trail in the northwest and northeast quadrants;
- Installing Americans with Disabilities Act compliant detectable warning devices on all side approaches at least 12 feet away from centerline of railroad tracks;
- Installing fencing positioned at least 8.5 feet away from centerline of railroad tracks for separation of pedestrian trail from tracks; and
- Applying California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings, including a R8-8 "DO NOT STOP ON THE TRACKS" sign, and W10-2 advance warning sign.

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) staff has investigated the request by the City, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the City, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC), and SCX (Parties) are in agreement as to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, the City may proceed

with the improvements as described in its request letter and attachments, and summarized above. The City must complete all the proposed alterations mentioned above for RCEB to consider this GO 88-B application closed.

SCX must ensure that Emergency Notification Signs are installed to comply with Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 234.309. Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with Section 8A.08, Temporary Traffic Control Zones, of the CA MUTCD, 2014 Edition, published by the California Department of Transportation.

All Parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including other Commission General Orders and the latest version of the CAMUTCD. This project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environment Quality Act of 1970, as amended [California Public Resources Code 21084].

This authorization shall expire if the above conditions are not complied with or if the work is not completed within three years of the date of this letter. Upon written request to this office, the time to complete the project may be extended. A written request for a time extension must include concurrence letters by interested Parties in support of the time extension. If an extension is requested, RCEB may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

Within 30 days after completion of this project, the City shall notify RCEB that the authorized work is completed by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the CPUC web site at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/crossings/>. This report may be submitted electronically to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.

At the conclusion of the project, SCX should submit an updated electronic inventory form (Form F6180.71) to the Federal Railroad Administration, reflecting the changes. 49 CFR 234 Section 234.409 requires the railroads to submit periodic crossing inventory updates a minimum of once every three years. The Commission requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.

If you have any questions, please contact Willard Lam at (415) 703-1327 or email at WLM@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Anton Garabetian, P. E.
Program and Project Supervisor
Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch
Safety and Enforcement Division

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Cc: George Dondero, SCCRTC
Mark Westerfield, SCX
Derek Wu, Kimley-Horn